



REPORT

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International Legal Exchange (ILEX) Committee Annual Report: 1992

At the annual meeting of the American Bar Association in August 1992, the International Legal Exchange (ILEX) program commenced its fourteenth year of operation under the auspices of the Section of International Law and Practice. The most important ILEX activities for the past year and the program for the upcoming year are summarized below.

I. ILEX Briefing Trips

In May ILEX conducted a very successful briefing trip to Portugal and Spain. The briefings focused on the Portuguese and Spanish legal systems as well as investment in and trade with these two countries in relation to the new European Community. The delegation, led by Section Chair Gerold Libby, comprised distinguished lawyers from around the United States, among them the treasurer of the American Bar Association, John L. Carey. The delegation received excellent high level briefings on foreign investment and privatization in both Lisbon and Madrid, including presentations by Portugal's Minister of Justice in Lisbon and Spain's Secretary of State for Commerce in Madrid.

From September 13-23, 1992, ILEX sponsored the first ABA delegation and briefing trip to Eastern Europe, with visits to Czechoslovakia and Hungary. This trip focused on newly opened trade and investment opportunities as well as on privatization in each of the two countries. In Czechoslovakia the delegation had

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meetings in both Prague and Bratislava as well as a visit to the historic trade fair in Brno. The delegation received briefings from Czech and Slovak Ministries and senior officials responsible for trade and privatization. The program in Budapest focused on privatization, foreign investment, trade, and the environment. Participants met with senior Hungarian government officials, attended seminars on investment and privatization, and visited the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe.

ILEX is conducting a briefing trip to London and Paris in May 1993 to focus on international arbitration. The delegation will visit both London and Paris, centers of international arbitration in Western Europe. Members of the delegation will meet there with senior officials of the London Court of International Arbitration, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and the International Chamber of Commerce Court of International Arbitration.

II. Individual Placements

ILEX has placed or assisted in placing seventy foreign lawyers in the U.S. law firms or law offices in 1992. The majority of these placements are as a result of cooperative efforts ILEX has undertaken with major law firms around the United States to facilitate the placement of foreign lawyer interns in those firms. ILEX is a designated agency for the issuance of J-1 exchange visitor visas. ILEX also handled a number of outbound placements, including a lawyer from Boston who joined a firm in Prague, Czechoslovakia, as well as several placements in Paris, France.

ILEX, in conjunction with the Section's Central and Eastern European Law Initiative (CEELI), is implementing a program funded under a commercial law grant from the United States Agency for International Development to bring six commercial lawyers to the United States from Poland for three-month internships in leading commercial law firms. These placements will be in the summer of 1993, culminating with a program at the Annual ABA Meeting in New York in August.

III. Government Funded Program

At the request of the United States Information Agency (USIA), ILEX, in 1993, arranged two five-month intensive study programs for Japanese government officials. These officials receive fellowships on a highly selective basis from the National Personnel Authority in Japan. Sawaka Yamamoto, Deputy Director of the Fair Trade Commission in Japan, studied the recovery of damages by private parties under the U.S. antitrust laws as well as "*Keiretsu* issues between the United States and Japan." (She attended the ABA Annual Meeting in San Francisco). Atsushi Onose, a government attorney from Tokyo, focused his study program on small claims court procedures and other methods of alternative dispute resolution in the United States.

ILEX, along with the African Law Committee, is participating as a subcontractor to the Academy for Educational Development in implementing a grant from the USIA as part of the "Democracy in Africa" series. The grant will bring two groups of Nigerian legal experts to the United States to explore the role of bar associations in the development and support of judicial systems in a democracy. These visits will occur in 1993.

